REMARKS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-8 in the application. In previous responses, Claims 1 and 6 were amended. In the present response, Claims 1 and 6 have again been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Accordingly, Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the application.

I.   Formal Matters and Objections

In view of the appeal brief, the Examiner has re-opened prosecution with new grounds of rejection and the options to file a reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.111 or request reinstatement of the appeal. As indicated by this response, the Applicants have chosen to respond by filing a reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.111.

II.   Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,219,407 to Kanevsky, *et al.* (Kanesvky). Kanevsky is directed to reducing a level of confusion and/or error in automatic speech recognition (ASR) of digits of a telephone number left by a caller in a voice mail message. (Column 1, line 65 to Column 2, line 2). In the Examiner's Action, the Examiner asserts that Kanevsky teaches each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 6. (Examiner's Action, pages 3-5). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Kanevsky does not teach a method of listening to key segments in a voice message including tagging a location of a key segment in the voice message, receiving an enquiry to listen to the key segment in the voice message and retrieving the key segment from the location for playback.

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(Claims 1 and 6). In Kanevsky, a caller leaves a telephone message and is identified through a set of acoustic prototypes. A telephone number is derived from the telephone message and compared to a stored telephone number associated with the identified caller. Based on the comparison, the telephone number from the telephone message may be replaced with one of the stored telephone numbers to insure that the correct telephone number for the caller is obtained. (Column 4, line 28 to Column 5, line 42).

A location of the derived telephone number in the voice message, however, is not tagged for playback. In fact, no portion of the telephone message in Kanevsky is tagged for playback. Instead, the derived telephone number or other characters in the telephone message, such as, name and address, are compared to stored values to insure a correct decoded message. The correct decoded message is provided to a user interface, preferably a CRT display terminal, enabling the user to view the caller's name, telephone number, etc. (Column 5, line 66 to Column 6, line 6). No enquiry to listen to the derived telephone number is received and the derived telephone number is not retrieved from the location for playback. Kanevsky, therefore, does not teach each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 6.

Since Kanevsky does not teach a method of listening to key segments in a voice message including tagging a location of a key segment in the voice message, receiving an enquiry to listen to the key segment in the voice message and retrieving the key segment from the location for playback as recited in independent Claims 1 and 6, Kanevsky does not anticipate Claims 1 and 6 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102(e) rejection with respect to Claims 1-4 and 6-7.

III. Rejection of Claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanevsky in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,143 to Bennett, III, *et al.* (Bennett). The Examiner asserts that Kanevsky teaches each and every element of Claims 5 and 8 except a pronunciation of the key segment. (Examiner's Action, page 6).

As discussed above, Kanevsky does not teach a method of listening to key segments in a voice message including tagging a location of a key segment in the voice message, receiving an enquiry to listen to the key segment in the voice message and retrieving the key segment from the location for playback as recited in independent Claims 1 and 6. In addition to not explicitly teaching the elements of independent Claims 1 and 6, Kanevsky does not suggest a method of listening to key segments in a voice message including tagging a location of a key segment in the voice message, receiving an enquiry to listen to the key segment in the voice message and retrieving the key segment from the location for playback.. Moreover, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to alter the teachings of Kanevsky to arrive at the present invention because Kanevsky teaches decoding telephone messages to enable the user to view the decoded telephone message and respond accordingly. Responding to the message includes listening to the entire telephone message instead of listening to only portions of the telephone message. (Column 7, lines 1-22).

Additionally, Bennett fails to cure the deficiencies of Kanevsky since Bennett does not teach or suggest a method of listening to key segments in a voice message including tagging a location of a key segment in the voice message, receiving an enquiry to listen to the key segment in the voice message and retrieving the key segment from the location for playback. Instead, Bennett teaches a telephone service for audibly identifying a called party. (Column 1, lines 37-38).
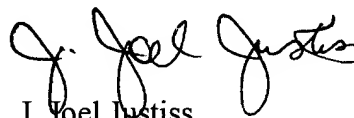
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Since Bennett fails to cure the deficiencies of Kanevsky, the combination of Kanevsky and Bennett fails to teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 6 and does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claims 5 and 8 which include the elements of Claims 1 and 6. The inventions, therefore, associated with dependent Claims 5 and 8 are not unpatentable over Kanevsky in view of Bennett. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection with respect to Claims 5 and 8.

IV.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-8. The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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